P.C

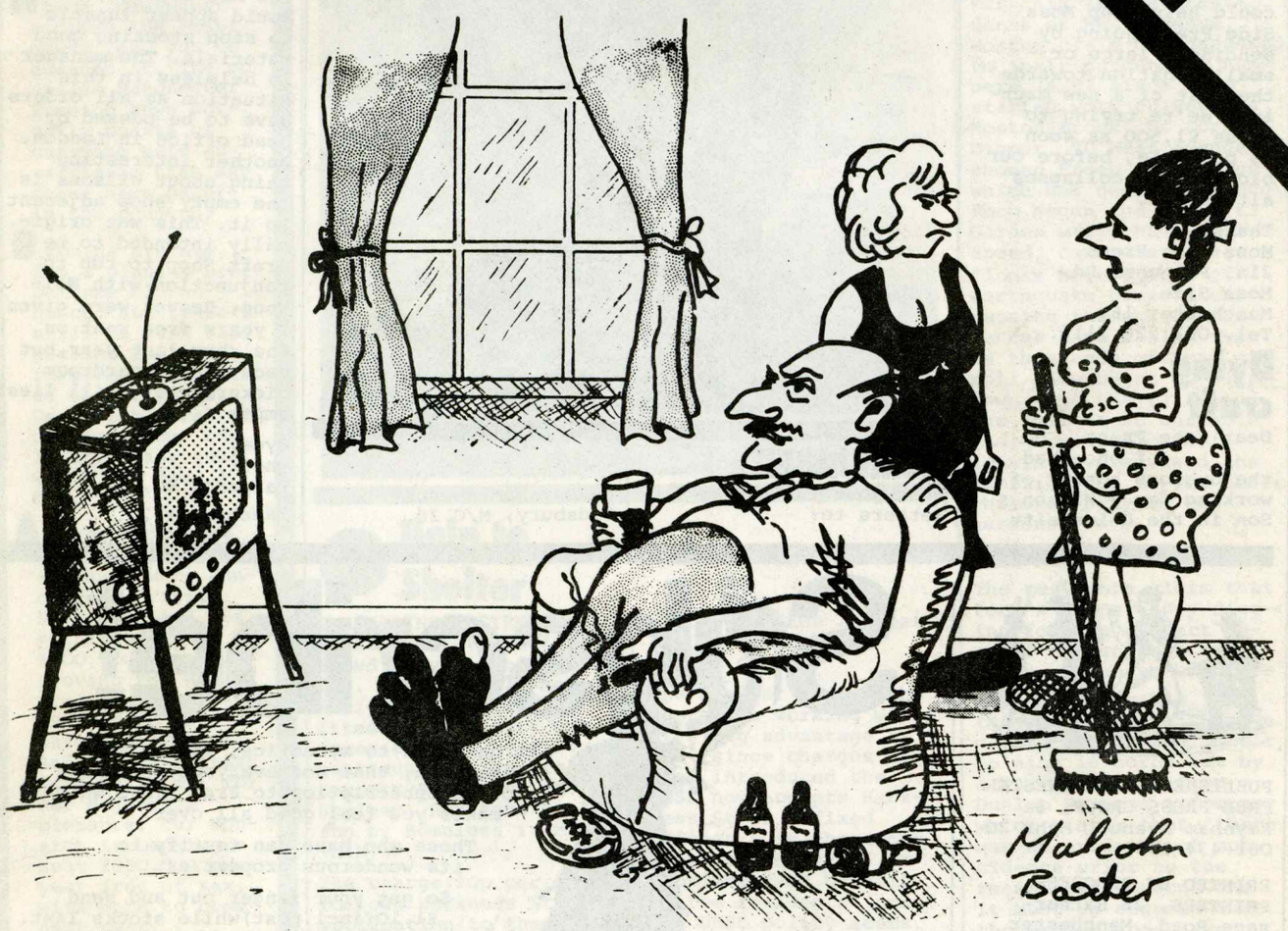
Manchester FREE PRESS

5p

Issue 31

THE NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

SUPER NEWS ISSUE



"He says he's a hundred per cent behind women's liberation— he couldn't be further behind it if he tried!"

NEWS

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Digging Daisy does it again p.9.

AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

Going going cheap

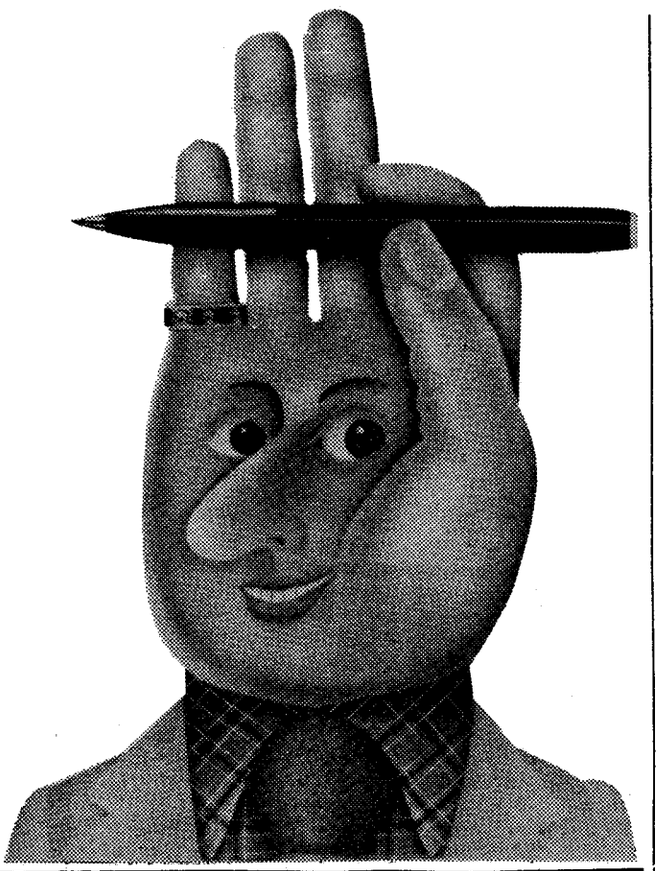
Dear Friends,
Moss Side Press has operated as a community press doing cheap printing for community groups, tenants associations, action groups & the alternative press for over 4 years. Our machine is almost at the end of its tether. Due to the fact that we do our printing so CHEAP, & make no profit, we can not afford to buy another machine. You could help keep Moss Side Press going by sending a large or small donation towards the cost of a new machine. We're trying to raise £1,500 as soon as possible, before our old machine collapses altogether.

Thanks,
Moss Side Press,
21a, Princess Rd,
Moss Side,
Manchester 16.
Tel. 061 226 7115.

Dying craft

Dear Free Press,
I once had the dubious honour of working for B.Wilson & Son in the University Precinct. The shop once stocked a wide range of artist materials but since it was taken over by Reckitt & Colman this year, the shop has been denied the right to stock good quality materials. The selection is now being confined to Reeves products (Reeves once owned Wilsons & was taken over last year by R.&C) which are fine for schools but make a lousy alternative for the serious artist. Because Wilsons is the only handy art shop to the Art College, it would appear lunatic to stop stocking good materials. The manager is helpless in this situation as all orders have to be passed by head office in London. Another interesting thing about Wilsons is the empty shop adjacent to it. This was originally intended to be a Craft Shop to run in conjunction with Wilsons. Reeves were given 2 years free rent on the shop last year,but because of boardroom bickering it still lies empty.

Byee,
Whoof,
Palatine Rd,
Manchester 20.



REMEMBER

Send your fun packed letters to:

8A Raynham Avenue,
Didsbury, M/C 20.

PUBLISHED BY MANCHESTER FREE PRESS GROUP, 8a Raynham Avenue, Mchr 20 061-434 1597

PRINTED BY PROGRESS PRINTERS, 28 Hathersage Road, Manchester 061- 224 5428

DISTRIBUTED BY US

DESIGN BY SNAIL GRAPHICS

ADS: Classified 2p a word. Display & semi-display rates on request

EDITORIAL GROUP:
Harry Baumgartl
Cynthia Drew
Paula Carson
John Doherty
Rachel Brown
Susan Kirsch
Simon Nail
Jim Shaw

PHOTOS by John

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Or I'll bash you over the head and have your liver for tea.

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address

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Which newspaper carries the least news? Yes, you've guessed it. The so called Manchester Evening News actually boasts of carrying more advertising than any other news paper in the country.

Orchids are now £15 a plant & Dior perfume £13 an ounce. But there's still no cash flow problem for the rare, the exquisite or the frivolous. Despite general economic gloom, the luxury trade just won't die down & die.

At the same time as 12½% increases in fares were announced, British Rail revealed its plans to spend £200,000 on improving the Royal Train (which cost £96,000 to maintain in 1973-74). And whilst British Rail forks out for her Majesty's pleasure, our Monarch is banking a neat £300,000 per year free of tax, with more to come next year.

It really seemed as though the Tory Pty was dying on its feet until the energetic Ms Thatcher gave it the kiss of life. From grocer's toddler to grocer's toppler. But one person was rather concerned lest she became pregnant. What would happen? Fortunately she was reassured by a friend: "That's alright. It's bound to be a little tory"

'nuff said

Do the hokey Poco and they all slip down

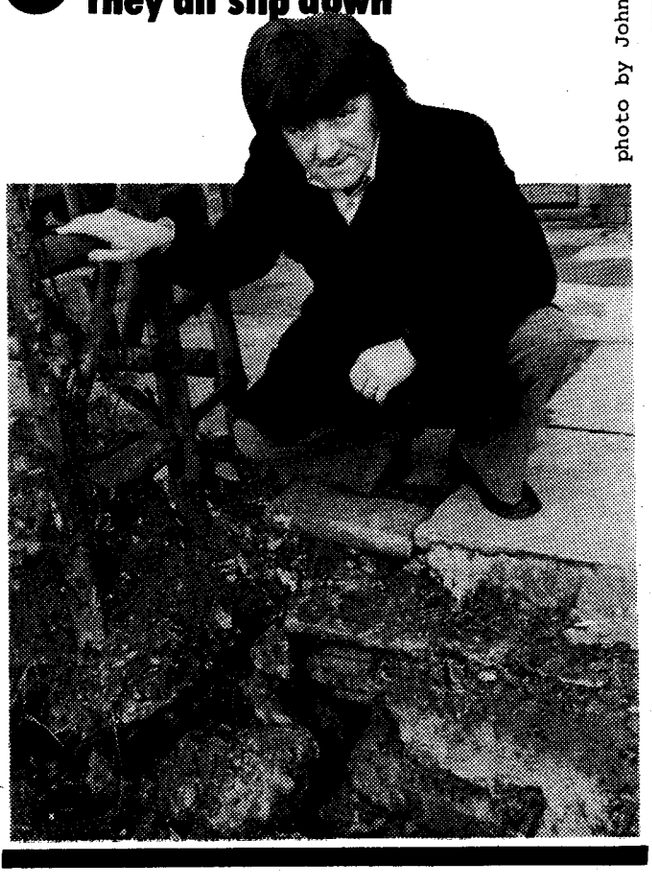


photo by John.

ONCE UPON A time, a family bought a house: it had a nice garden which sloped down to a little stream running through a valley. And the man of the house worked hard & long and tilled the soil until his garden was a mass of flowers. And everybody was happy.

Until, that is, Poco Properties came along & dug a big hole at the bottom of the valley in to which the nice garden began to slip & disappear. For this is what residents of West Avenue, Moston claim has happened to their gardens of numbers 74/92 since Poco started work culverting Moston Brook. Mr Gordon Diaper, 90 West Avenue, showed Freep the damage which has occurred since Poco began the culvert. Garden walls have collapsed, concrete garage floors have cracks of earthquake proportions running through them & fences have fallen over as thousands of tons of soil have begun to slip down into the valley. The soil is so unstable that Corporation officials have advised the families not to let their children play in the gardens.

survey

The residents claim that Poco's preparatory digging for the culvert removed the support for their gardens & was directly responsible for the slippages which have caused the damage. Their opinion is borne out by a survey report from Dunlop Heywood & Company which states that "there was no evidence of subsidence prior to the recent excavations and it must be assumed that the excavations have been directly responsible for the removal of support".

vague

Paul Rose, Blackley's MP, has taken up the West Avenue residents' case, but so far Poco have done nothing. They have given vague verbal promises about levelling off their culvert work, but at no time have they accepted liability for, or offered to rectify or compensate for the damage caused through

Continued on page 15.

Help to Shelter

THE HARKNESS STREET Night Shelter has introduced a system of charging. Mike Bendall has resigned from the Committee as a result, but stresses that he will continue to give his support & help to the Shelter. Harkness St is run by Homeless in M/C (HIM).

The charge (20p per night) follows Harkness Street's application to the Supplementary Benefits Commission for a grant to help run the Shelter. At a meeting with the SBC, the Shelter was told that they should "seriously consider introducing some system of charging at the night shelter before further discussion of the application".

Initially, HIM was reluctant to charge in case they had to turn the destitute away. This problem was solved when the SBC accepted a system of voluntary charging. Those who can afford the 20p per day pay: those who can't, don't.

The Shelter thinks the system is working well. It's big advantage is that since charges have been introduced the DHSS now accepts Harkness St as a fixed address & is therefore prepared to pay £6.90 supplementary benefits to the residents (present DHSS policy seems to be against paying benefits to people without a fixed address). HIM reports that "voluntary helpers at the Shelter have noticed an increase in the numbers staying there.

They think that more people (particularly younger men) are coming to the Shelter because they can claim benefit when staying there. There's very little income via the money box at the entrance & the total contributions for the night vary between nothing & £1".

Short sighted stretch

THE POWERFUL ROAD Lobby will be delighted by a recent decision of a GMC committee. The Transport Strategy Joint Committee recently decided "not to object" to the so-called Environment Ministry's order for the M63 stage II Stockport Bypass covering 0.6 miles in Stockport's centre, from Edgeley Viaduct to Portwood. In the TSJC meeting, 4 councillors voted to object to the ministry's scheme and 4 voted not to object. The tie was broken by Sir Robert Thomas's casting vote. He voted "not to object" even though the experts, the chairman of the Transport Committee & of the Highways Committee, had voted the other way.

furious

The TSJC's decision has infuriated many people who consider it is neither necessary nor desirable to have a 6 lane motorway whistling through the centre of Stockport. GMTAG (Greater M/C Transport Action Group) fear that apart from the noise, the motorway will create traffic conjestion on feeder roads & will not divert sufficient traffic from the A560 to justify the new road striking through the heart of the town. There are also fears that although this

short motorway doesn't affect a residential area directly, its construction will affect such areas elsewhere for several reasons. GMTAG warn that "The Dept of the Environment has already created many social & planning problems for the local authority by building detached pieces of motorway in urban areas, thus forcing their consequent connection through residential districts, to the detriment of local communities & their environment".

What price priority

LAST AUTUMN Manchester finally abandonned its policy of bulldozing all unfit property in the city. Vigorous campaigning seemed to convince the housing committee that many houses could be saved & improved to modern standards. So far more than 1,000 previously condemned houses have been earmarked for improvement, & first priority has been given to schemes in 3 areas: Copson St, Withington; Slade Lane, Levenshulme; & Rink St, Ladybarn.

euphoric

But the euphoria of autumn is rapidly turning into anger as the housing dept dithers over implementing its new policy. At present the town hall is refusing to process individual applications for improvement grants from tenants in the so-called priority areas of Withington, Levenshulme & Ladybarn. The town hall is waiting for reports from its Area Teams about designating the priority areas as Housing Action Areas or as General Improvement Areas before processing grant applications. Unfortunately, the Area Teams are only just starting work & are not expected to be working properly for at least another 6 months. So applications in priority areas are likely to spend almost a year in limbo: applications from non priority areas will be handled normally. In usual style priority decisions will be made last.

dawdling

Manchester's dawdling in Withington, Levenshulme & Ladybarn has caused much speculation. Some suggest that the delays have arisen simply because the town hall was caught unprepared by the decision to go for improvement but nastier explanations have been whispered in to Freep's ear. This view has it that although the planning department is totally committed to the policy of improvement, its enthusiasm is not completely shared in the housing committee and the housing department. Some people in housing see improvement as a challenge, in terms of men materials & money, to Manchester's earlier commitment to a programme of 2,500 new council houses per year plus extensive modernisation of older council houses. So, delaying progress in Ladybarn etc can be seen as an effort to ensure that the programme of new building remains undisturbed.

riper

But whatever the cause of this delay, its effects are clear enough. The more that residents become demoralised by the absence of progress, the riper the areas become for an invasion of property companies buying houses cheaply, improving them & then either selling again later at high profits or cashing in on the improved houses through high rents. In either case, working class residents will be forced out as the improvement areas are quickly turned into bijou middle class villages. Fears that this process has already started in Ladybarn have alreadbeen voiced as a result of the activities of a firm of Manchester Estate Agents - Alker, Ellis & Cross Ltd. This company, which manages 10 or so properties in the Ladybarn area has formed the Great North Western Housing Society in order to purchase & improve properties in the area. At present, Ladybarn tenants' leaders do not seem too bothered by the Great North Western, which holds less than a tenth of the property to be improved there. But unless progress on improvement is made quickly the danger will increase.

Flying doctor dilemma

A MOBILE surgery for M/C's homeless is now on the road. It goes out on Monday nights with Dr. Paul Clement manning the surgery & Barry Quinn as driver. The surgery calls first at the Harkness Street night Shelter where 10-15 men & women are seen each week. The surgery has then sometimes gone on to the Shambles in town where the soup run calls to give out soup.

Help has been given by the North District of the Manchester Area Health Authority who have agreed to maintain the vehicle & pay for petrol. Permanent garaging near the city centre is needed & relief drivers are also required. If you can help, contact Barry at 19 Duncan Rd, Longsight. Other doctors are also needed to take the surgeries on other nights of the week. Doctors should contact Dr.P.Clement, Bolton 42089.

Empty house scandal - tip of the iceberg

MANCHESTER'S HOUSING waiting list families can draw some consolation from the dynamism with which the city is tackling the problem of empty, derelict properties. Freep has encountered several such houses recently & has traced their histories.

HOUSE 1

How about this one for logic!
At one end of Queenston Rd., Didsbury, stands Holly House, a hostel used by Manchester as accomodation for families without a home. But at the other end of the same road there stand two houses which M/C has allowed to lie empty for more than ten years
Freep was told about the houses by Ms G Bloor who has conducted a single-handed campaign about the properties since she moved into the road in 1965. She's written to MPs, Aldermen, Town Councillors, Lord Mayors, the Planning Dept, the City Architect etc, but all without effect. As she says, the houses "are a very unedifying sight; broken windows, dumped rubbish, overgrown hedges hanging over the pavement & gardens full of weeds are a constant nuisance to those of us who tend our gardens. But these things are unimportant beside the fact that it's a crying social shame that basically sound houses like these should stand empty for nigh on a decade".

served

The nearest Mrs Bloor's campaign came to success was in May 1970 when the City Architects Office served the owners of the houses (a Mr A.H. Joseph) with a notice under section 27 of the Public Health Act 1961 requiring works of repair to be made on the houses. Mrs Bloor's file of letters referring to the houses ends with a note from SG Besant Roberts dated March 1972 - 2 years after the repair notices had been served - saying that "some of the work required by the notice has been carried out, but, as the owner was hoping to convert the property into multiple occupation, the work was delayed and no progress has been made with the proposed conversion". The Architect also promised to let Mrs Bloor know in "due course what progress has been made in this matter".

No progress has yet been made: the house remains one of the 30/40 houses empty in the West Didsbury/Withington area.

HOUSE 2

The other empty house Freep heard about recently is a newcomer compared to the one in Queens Rd. This one, in Meredith St, Ladybarn, has only been bricked up for 9 or 10 months.

The property was closed up & vandalised by the corporation (they pulled up the floorboards and removed the plumbing) at a time when they were bent on the demolition & rebuilding of the Ladybarn area. This policy has now been abandonned & the council is now committed to improving the Ladybarn area, including the Meredith Street terrace & its bricked up house.

improvement

When the improvement policy was adopted, the local Tenant's Assoc wrote to Mr Goodhead,

M/C's Director of Housing, suggesting that the council could show its goodwill by using the Meredith St property as a model house to indicate what improvements were possible in small terraced houses. The Ladybarn tenants even offered to man the show house themselves & to explain to visitors what could be done to their homes.

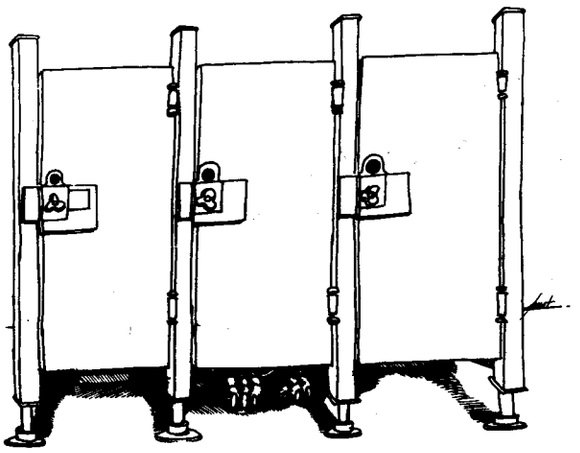
Mr Goodhead promised to consider the idea & promised to reply to the suggestion in Nov. Nothing has yet happened, the house remains empty, & the feeling is growing in the area that "they don't like us putting forward ideas when it's their job to think of them first".

Damn it it's Stramit

STRAMIT LTD, makers of the now bug-ridden straw walls so loathed by Moss Side residents, seems to have a burning desire to tell the world about their lousy product. The 1974/75 Guild Sound & Vision Sponsored Film Catalogue offers free loans on no less than 5 films showing the wonder Stramit in action.

One film, "Building with Straw", should be of special interest to residents of the Moss: in the film Stramit's resistance to fire is "shown in a dramatic sequence involving the burning down of a house". Freep 29 reported Moss Side residents' complaints that Stramit walled houses had burned out almost totally in less than 10 minutes. 4 fires actually happened in one week.

Stramit's alleged fire resistance will also come as a surprise to building workers with M/C's Direct Works Dept. They're quite used to burning odd bits of the revolutionary compound to get a good warm on frosty mornings. Apparently, it produces a healthy fire very quickly, with just a bit of nasty black smoke to be avoided before it catches properly.



Locking the safety door

WORKERS BEWARE! Our fears about the new Health & Safety Work Act (Freep 30) look as though they were well founded. When John Locke, director of the new Health & Safety Executive was interviewed recently in "Trade and Industry", he said:

"we will have some very general obligations placed on firms...Now that means that we shall probably have rather less in future of highly detailed & specific requirements A lot of it can be written up in codes of practice which can be framed rather more informally than legal requirements". Now there's the rub. Codes of Practice are too informal. They just give practical guidance on how to make a work place safer.An employer can't be forced to do what a Code of Practice suggests. Not that laws make employers do things either, especially if it means spending money. Besides, even if an intrepid factory inspector does catch them breaking the law & takes them to court (which is a rarity), the fines are so small that even if he's found guilty of an offence, an employer laughs all the way to the bank.

So it's going to be up to the ordinary workers & their trade unions to push for stricter laws about safety & also make sure those laws are carried out- by taking industrial action if necessary & refusing to work in unsafe conditions.That would cost the firm money & might therefore have more effect than the piddling fines imposed by the law.

Mr.Locke also has some very strange ideas about the work hazards faced by the 6 million people in industries not previously protected by safety laws. "they include a great many people who are not exposed to very substantial risks, although there are problems. In the schools there are certain problems affecting the position of teachers.:. But nevertheless, it is not a matter, for the most part, of major risks, it is very much more of amenities, adequate lighting & this kind of thing".

Perhaps Mr.Locke should tell that to kitchen workers (whom he does not even mention), who cripple their backs & break their legs on slippery floors; or to hospital workers who get hernias lifting patients. They'd be delighted to hear it Mr.Locke!

It would obviously be difficult to protect workers from this type of injury by making new laws, because the real problem is often; understaffing. But if people in responsible positions like Mr.Locke don't even mention or recognise this type of hazard, these problems will never get tackled.

Fair doos

FREEP HAS often commented on the rats and bugs of Moss Side but posh Cheadle is not without its own peculiar social problems. Stockport Development Services Committee has granted permission for a new office block in the village despite "100% local opposition".Local residents are worried about office development taking up space needed for local amenities. Cheadle councillor,Brian Leah claims"Cheadle Hulme seems to be having more than its fair share of office blocks - & it means we are losing our facilities".

In defence of the decision, councillor John Howe, chairman of the development services committee said, "We do take notice of what local residents say,but as the planning authority we act purely on planning grounds". Thank you councillor Howe. Now we understand.

Animal crackers

IS THERE a tree in your garden? If there is,then go and spend ten minutes inspecting its bark.If you're lucky you might spot a peppered moth(Biston betularia). Of more than 700 larger moths found throughout the British Isles this little beauty is surely the best known, and is a species with a unique place in Manchester's heritage. In the palmy pre-industrial days the moth's light peppered colouring provided perfect camouflage on the lichen clad bark of trees: but as smoke pollution spread, then tree lichens died off & tree bark became blackened. The peppered moth stood out like a sore thumb, at the mercy of its predators. The species was saved by a brilliant evolutionary move. It defeated the grime by adopting a filthy black colour in keeping with its surroundings.Manchester and Salford can still boast a much higher proportion of these filthy little moths than almost anywhere else in the world. Almost 90% of the peppered moths in the region are jet black and as yet there seems no great threat to their survival. Smoke control regulations have slightly eroded the "dirty" moths' supremacy but fortunately the regulations have had so little general impact that the important mutant species' survival is assured.

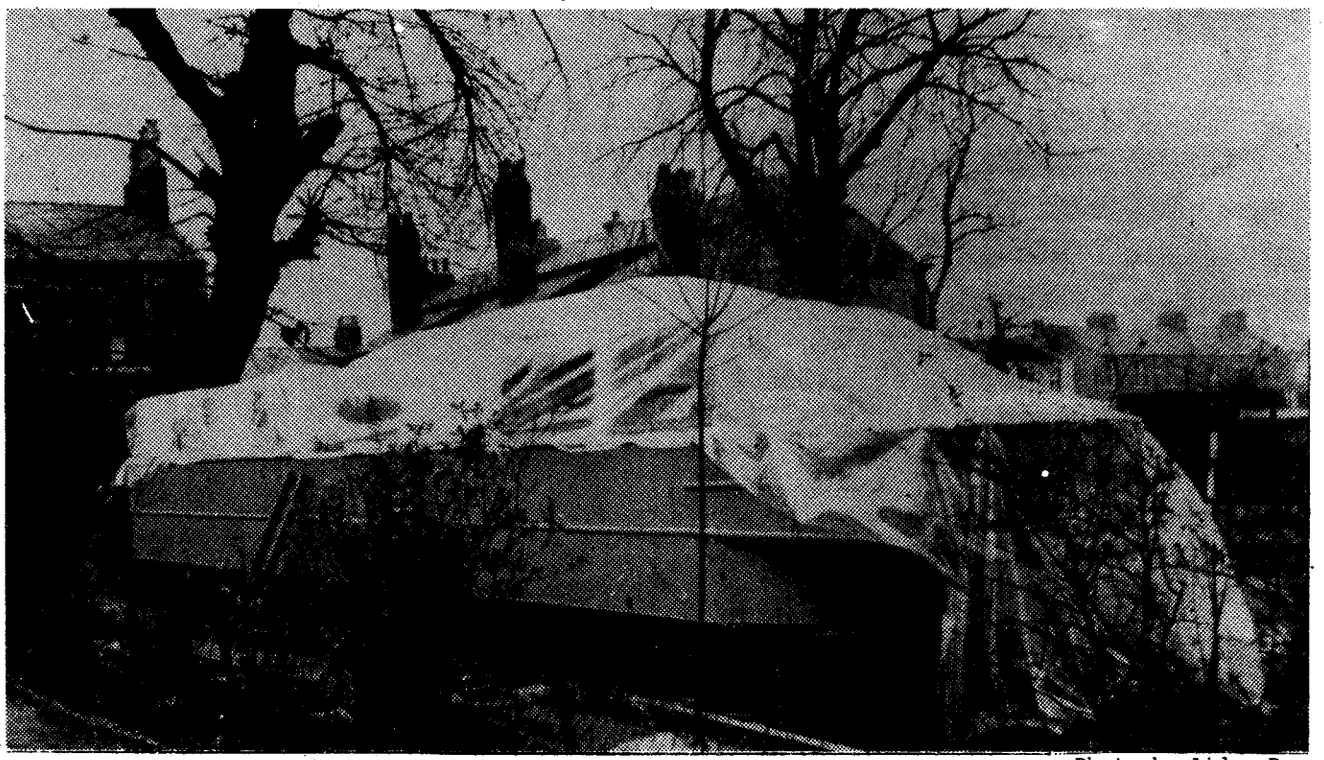


Photo by Aiden Roe

Ord's ark

A BIG talking point in Fallowfield is the 7 ton, 50 ft long, steel canal narrow boat under construction in an Egerton Road back yard.

The boat is being built single handed by Mr Ord, a local landlord who owns - but doesn't live in the Fallowfield house. Mr Ord started work on his masterpiece last May & hopes to complete it by late summer. When finished, the boat will have everything the modern bargee requires: sink units, fridge, cooker, wash basin & dinette, to say nothing of 8 berths.

But local interest does not always centre on Mr Ord's technical virtuousity: people are more interested in how he will get the boat out of his back yard. Local gossip, perhaps motivated by the noise & disturbance caused, has it that Mr Ord is a victim of the environmental & house improvement lobbies. It's said that his original plan was to chop down the tree (see photo) & wait for the demolition of the condemned terrace at the end of his garden. He could then move the boat.

But first a tree protection order was stuck on the tree, & then M/C decided to improve rather than demolish the terrace, which seemed to leave Mr Ord with a 50ft long problem: a useless 7 ton canal narrow boat as a monument to improvement & conservation.

However, it seems that the mockers are wrong. Freep asked Mr Ord how he planned to extract the boat from his yard.

Unabashed, he told us that there would be no difficulty if he could swing the boat round past the tree, in front of the terrace & off to a triumphant launching in the Bridgewater canal. Mockers be warned! Mr Ord already has plans to build a longer boat - this time in concrete - when the narrow boat is finished.

Race against racialism

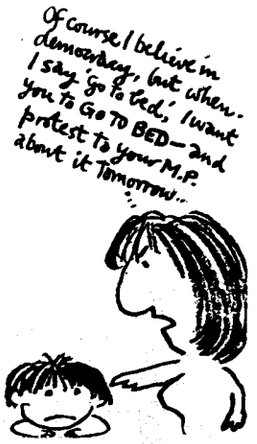
THE NORTH WEST conciliation committee of the Race Relations Board has issued its 1973-74 annual report which shows that there has been an increase of 69% in cases of discrimination. Most of the increases concerned allegations of discrimination in pubs against young people in the North West. From the figures, young people have a lot to complain about. According to the PEP Report, "Racial Disadvantage in Employment", by David J. Smith, Asian & West Indian workers suffer disadvantages in employment in many ways. They must make more job applications than white workers & must take longer in securing a job. A much higher proportion of non-white workers are in non-skilled jobs than white workers &, although some firms claim to have non-white supervisors, the PEP Report shows that in 84% of the firms surveyed, all supervisors are white. In addition, when automation necessitates redundancies, the non-white workers are laid off in greater numbers than white workers - the old song of "last hired 1st fired". In the Lancashire Textile Industries, 30-70% of the workers are Asian, but in the skilled jobs, Asians are hardly represented.

Kept in semi-skilled & un-skilled jobs, they're in the most vulnerable position in a slump economy & the very insecurity of their position makes it difficult for them to remedy the injustices. This places "considerable responsibility" (Labour Research Jan '75) upon the shop stewards, most of whom are white. The other major area of discrimination has been in public houses & discos. Although the Brewers Society publicised the terms & spirit of the Race Relations Act to its members in 1965, it seems that landlords are refusing to serve Asians or West Indians in their pubs. After these 10 years, perhaps the Brewers Society should remind their members again, not only about the Brotherhood of Man, but also of their legal obligation to serve poeple without regard to colour, race, ethnic or national origin.

Kids have rights

Children form one of the largest oppressed groups in the community. Their treatment in Manchester and Salford leaves much to be desired. But kids do have some rights...

Last issue Freep looked at the rights of Gays. They're the biggest minority group in the country who have fewer rights than the rest of the population. (Women don't count - they're in the majority). But at least Gays are organised, vocal & articulate, so sooner or later they will have the same rights as everybody else, if they fight for long enough. Kids, & particularly kids who come up against the law or are taken into the care of the Local Authorities, aren't in a position to defend what rights they've got.



In 1974, M/C Social Services Dept had over 2,000 children in its care; about 1,000 of them in care until they are 18. The rest are there on 28 day Interim Care Orders. Each year about 1,000 are discharged from care and are replaced by roughly the same number of new admissions, so over a few years, there's an awful lot of kids with no homes of their own.

Children in care are exposed to almost complete exploitation, & their rights can be ignored virtually at will by the staff who care for them. They're a shifting population, predominantly from unskilled & semi-skilled working class backgrounds, cared for by a predominantly middle class residential staff, & more or less cut off from their backgrounds. Most of Manchester's Community Homes are in nice middle class residential areas like Didsbury. Most of the kids come from nasty working class areas like Hulme & Newton Heath.

DEFENCELESS

Kids in care don't have anyone to defend them in court when Social Workers apply to have them committed to care. The only people who can speak for them are their parents - an odd situation when the accused defends the victim in a court of law. Kafka would've laughed his head off.

THE DUMP

Well alright, many kids are better off away from their families, but in many cases they are going from the domestic frying pan into the Local Authority fire. Remember the case of Shirley (Freep 30, Evening News, Guardian & Granada TV), who was committed to the tender care of Salford Social Services? She ended up in an adult psychiatric ward at Prestwich Hospital because they couldn't find anywhere "more suitable" for her. If she'd been a boy, she'd probably have ended up at "The Dump" (Freep 29) so maybe Prestwich wasn't so bad after all.

BRUTALITY

Some of M/C's alternatives to home aren't so impressive either.Boys on remand often go to Rose Hill, an establishment in rural Northenden not noted for the warmth of its relationships between staff & boys. There's a special treat in store for remanded girls as well. They're likely to go to Burford House in Whalley Range, a purpose built closed unit (ie it's hard to run away from) with purpose built staff to match. When the girls arrive, they have their trendy clothes, jewellery & make-up taken away & are made to dress in something a bit more suitable. The secrecy which surrounds the running of such institutions gives rise to allegations of brutality which rarely see the light of day in the media because they are difficult to prove. Who is going to believe the word of a promiscuous adolescent girl against a respectable middle aged lady?

KID'S RIGHTS

It's worth having a look at the rights of kids who are arrested for various offences, particularly the ones that are most often ignored.

Arrest

If a kid is arrested with a warrant, he's allowed to see it. The police can arrest anyone without a warrant if they're committing (or suspected of committing) an offence such as theft or breach of the peace. You have a right to know why you're being arrested You don't have to say

too

anything, & it's best not to because you may say something which will get you into more trouble later.

You don't have to go on an identity parade until your parents or solicitors have been contacted. The police don't have the right to fingerprint you without permission but they can hold you in custody if you refuse.

You don't have to answer any questions apart from your name & address until your parents or solicitor are present.

Bail

If you're arrested without a warrant, the police must let you free on bail if you can't appear before the courts within 24 hours (48 at weekend). Children over 10 must be released on bail unless it's believed that release would "defeat the course of justice".

Held

No child can be held for more than 72 hours without being brought before the magistrate. If you're detained, you go to a Local Authority Community Home which may be like a prison, or completely open. The actual place you go to is up to the Local Authority.

Court

You have the right to speak for yourself in court. It's a right worth exercising. It's very unwise to plead guilty. It's up to the court to decide whether you're guilty or not. Always get a solicitor. If your parents can't afford one, you can still get one on the Legal Aid scheme for free. Apply for this to the magistrate when you are brought before the court. It's up to you to get legal aid, but you have to be over 16.

Care

If you've committed an offence & are 16 or under, you may be taken into care. If you're sent to a Community Home you have the following rights:

Punishment

a) Staff can only hit you in self defence. & Corporal punishment can only be given by the Head or Deputy of the Establishment. He must enter it in the punishment book.

Meals & Money

b) You can't be punished by loss of meals. Any pocket money stopped must be returned to you before you leave the Home.

Visits

c) You have the right to be visited by parents guardians & friends, but just when is up to the staff.

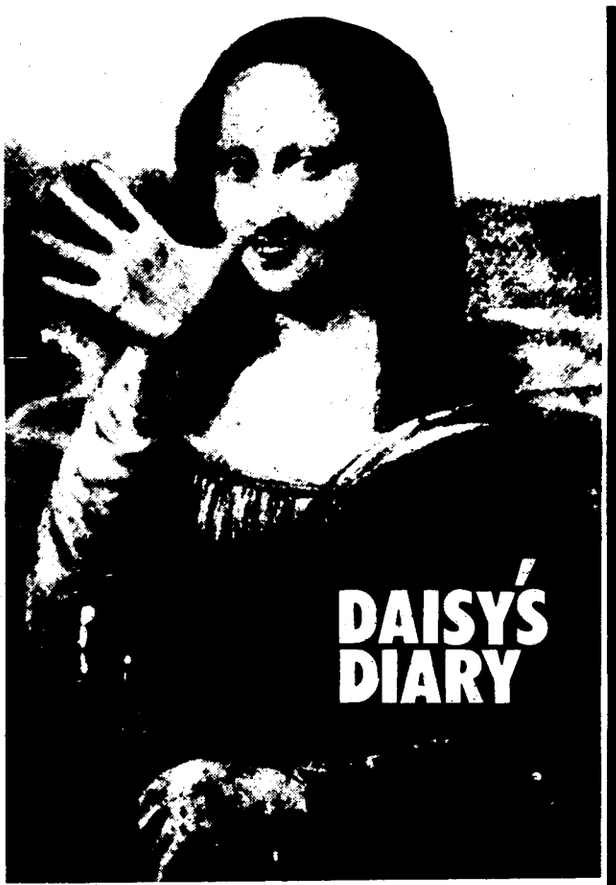
Religion

d) You don't have to go to church on Sundays if you don't want to. Nor can you be prevented from attending a religious service.

Reports

e) You have the right to read your own court reports.

Most Community Homes & Community Schools do provide adequate standards of care, but adequate from whose point of view? The last ones to be considered in these situations are the kids themselves.

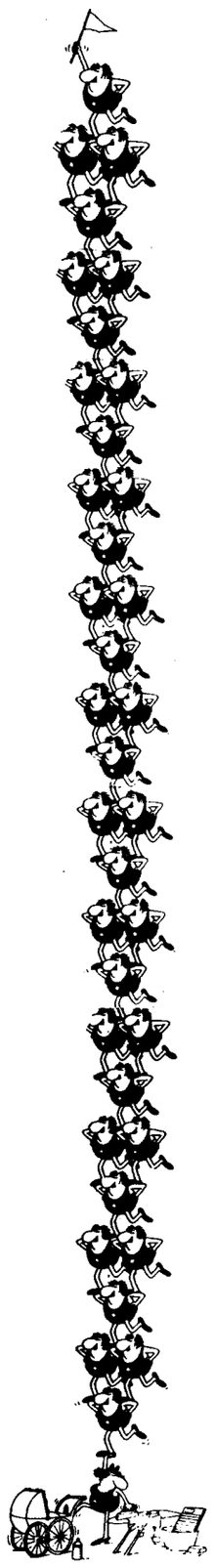


Watch out for Granadas dramatic expose of life in fiery Moss Side. The programme stars Bernard Clarke, one of Lord Bernsteins news sleuths. His mission? To boldly go where no (Granada)man had gone before, & risk life & limb living on the Moss. Startreck's mission lasted 5 yrs. Brave Bernard managed one whole week. Nasty rumour has it that the programme won't be shown until after the May local elections, but don't believe a word of it.

M/C is still frantically spending money on environmental improvements to its new council estates. Beswick, I hear, is to be blessed with a beer garden & Moss Side is sprouting trees all over the place. Mind you, tenants near the District Centre in the Moss are convinced that the tree planting programme has more to to with tarting up the District Centre for its official opening than with concern for their well being

My days of supporting this organ could be numbered. I'm thinking of doing some wheel tapping and shunting with Colin Crompton, my favourite working class hero, following his recent dramatic appeal in the M/C Evening Advertiser for a capable housekeeper. Poor Col needs someone like my good self to look after his big, big house during his wife's illness.

The public spirit of my great friend Squirrel Smith warms my cynical old heart. I am sure he feels deeply for the splendid Rochdale Alternative Paper. For when RAP at last got their own press running, he took it upon himself not only to check at the Town Hall to make sure that their rates were correct, but he also made representations - no doubt on RAP's behalf also - to the Factory Inspectorate. How sad it is then to hear people in Rochdale saying "There's no flies on Fatman"



ROLL OVER THE ROLES

Because of the nature of women's oppression & the heavy emphasis that our society places on a woman's family role, women at work have seen themselves as apart from the organised working class movement for much too long. A high proportion of working women aren't even unionised & many of them work for employers who hire them as merely cheap labour.

But women workers are at last beginning to fight for better conditions & pay. The disputes at Salford Electrical Engineering (SEI) over the last couple of years are indicative of their growing political awareness.

Struggle

SEI has 2 factories - one in Heywood & one in Eccles with female employees in APEX and the AEUW. Both unions have recently been involved in significant struggles for women's equality.

In 1973, the APEX women at both plants came out on strike for 11 weeks over the issue of equal pay.

Then last year the AEUW erupted. The AEU women in Heywood saw the culmination of a year long dispute over equal pay & bonus incentive payments. Negotiations had started in April 1973 but 1 yr & 6 conferences later, the dispute was still going strong.

Strike

They started a piece work ban in July & the management threatened to lock them out unless they returned to normal working. Then,on 15th August, after the management "clocked" one of the women "off", 400 angry women at Heywood walked out on strike. The men were not called on to help immediately but attempts were made to get the Eccles women involved.

But there was no response & this was one of the major weaknesses of the strike.

Threats

The remaining strikers then occupied the factory in the 7th week & the men were then asked not to cross the picket line. The AEU called on the men to come out in support but the appeal was ignored. The women were intimidated by chargehands, foremen & management & in the 9th week, the women received letters threatening to dismiss them. The women voted to return to work shortly afterwards.

There are several lessons to be learned from this struggle. Its weaknesses lay in the lack of solidarity & co-ordination both between the men & women of the same factory, & between separate factories(which allows large combines like GEC to pick individual factories off & indeed, often close them).

Stronger

Subsequent to this struggle, the Union organisation has been strengthened by increasing the number of shop stewards from 3 to 12 & by establishing a combined shop stewards committee for all GEC workers so that actions can in future be co-ordinated. There is also now a newspaper for GEC employees.

But the problem still remains that without greater male awareness & acceptance of women on an equal basis, the difficulties of co-ordinating trade union action, not only on equal pay, but on general working class struggles will remain.

Combat

The better organised that women are, the more they will be able to combat the difficulties of male/female relationships at work.

Internatio Women's

International Women's Year may be the invention of the United Nations, but International Women's Day was created by the Women's Movement itself. It's roots can be found in the progressive & socialist movement of the early 20th century.

The first International Women's Day in 1907 was organised in the USA by socialist women to demand political rights for working women. At that time, & until the 1920's, this primarily

come together

This year, Manchester will become the centre of one of the most important events of the year.The National Women's Liberation Conference will be held here. At the last conference, in Edinburgh, 1,000 women arrived & this time 1,500 to 2,000 women are expected. This obviously means a mammoth organisational & political task.

The Abram Moss Community Centre has agreed to the conference being held there. The Centre affords the necessary accommodation for workshops & also the space

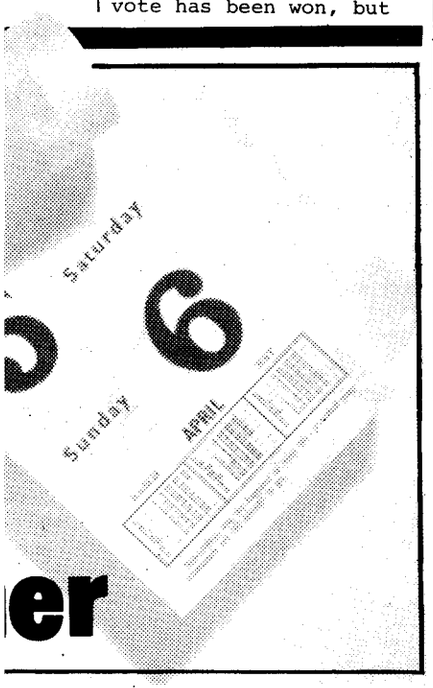
tional 's Day

meant the vote. In 1917, in Russia, International Women's Day heralded the coming of the socialist revolution & the 8th March is now celebrated on both counts in the Soviet Union.

When begun, International Women's Day, with its demonstrations, was important for raising the issue of women's suffrage, women's right to political equality and the necessity of struggle to achieve that emancipation. Since then, the vote has been won, but not the equality & the liberation from "household drudgery" which they also asked for.

Today, the significance of International Women's day is just as great, & the need to demonstrate still as pressing. This year the Equal Pay Act is supposed to take effect. But it's an Act that many believe will do little to ensure equal remuneration for work of equal value. Also, the Labour Govmt has stated that it will present a Bill to Parliament this year intended to end discrimination against women. There is little proof that it will have the desired effect. But what is certain is that no legislation will appear unless there is mass pressure from a mass movement (just as the vote would not have been won without the suffrage movement).

It would also seem to be quite clear that International Women's Day would not be taking place if it were not for the growth of the International Women's Liberation Movement. The demonstration this year will set off from the Mancunian Way at 2.30pm, Saturday 8 March.



& facilities for eating (food to be supplied by On The Eighth Day), film shows, women's art exhibitions, sports, creches & art rooms.

The discussions at the conference will take place in workshops.

Topics will range from economic & legal problems to the question of sexuality, the media & education.

Registration for the conference is £2.00 before 10th March & £2.50 after. This & requests for further info should go to The Women's Centre 218, Upper Brook St,M/C 13

Right ladies

The developments among women haven't all been progressive this year. We recently saw Ms Windsor (better known as the Queen & reputed to be one of the world's richest women) asking the Govmt to increase her "salary", an amount likely to crush the social contract. On the day after the announcement of her financial embarrassment, she was given 10p by a school boy (reputed to be from a low income family). The Queen has decided not to sell any of her pictures or land, valued at around £94 million. The value of her share investments is unknown since they're in other people's names & not her own.

THATCHERCAT

Ms Thatcher (who hates being called Ms because she's married & proud of it) is also in the news, having been elected leader of the Tory Party. Although this is obviously a great achievement for a woman, it will in no way help other women. Ms Thatcher & the party she represents have consistently adopted policies which are against the interests of the vast majority of women. Ms Thatcher also denied her womanhood by stating that the only importance the win had, was for the politician in her, not for the woman.

ROLL ON

Also making the headlines in a few newspapers, is Ms Marie de Roland Peele, the self-dubbed leader of the "Women's Resistance Movement". Despite the progressive sounding title, this organisation is in the same mould as that of General Walker & Colonel Stirling. Ms Roland Peele intends to recruit 1 million women from the Mothers Union & Women's Institutes, in order to lead the fight against communists. This fight, which will be armed, should take place about August,the date which Ms de Roland Peele expects the revolution to take place!

no more buxom blondes

The Govmt's proposed Bill for the Equality of Women doesn't even attempt to deal with sexism in publications but one publisher has decided to do this for itself. As a beginning. a pamphlet titled:"Guide lines for equal treatment of the sexes in McGraw Hill Book Co Publications", intends to make the staff & authors of the company aware of the ways in which males & females are stereotyped in publications. It also aims to show the "role language has played in reinforcing inequality" & it makes an attempt at offering solutions.

The pamphlet makes a great point of showing that strengths & weaknesses are human and not masculine or feminine; that characteristics traditionally praised in only one of the sexes should be praised in both; that women also have careers; & that descriptions of women should avoid such phrases as "a buxom blonde".

The words chosen to describe categories of people & occupations are also picked out for attention. We're told that instead of mankind we should refer to humanity or people. That instead of businessman we should say business executive/manager. We shouldn't say you and your wife either. We should say you & your spouse. And so on. Roles, jobs & personal characteristics are not sex specific.Maybe McGraw-Hill is genuinely responding to the ideas of the Women's Movement, or maybe they're keeping future profits in mind. It's a pity that the Daily Mirror, despite pressure from women in advertising, has not followed McGraw-Hill's example. Their advertising campaign, although modified, has not been significantly improved.

Lead up the garden path

A RECENT survey of the level of lead in local dust by a Manchester University research team has produced results with frightening implications for the health of the city kids. The team of chemists analysed 350 samples of dust taken from pavements, gutters, playgrounds, wasteland and gardens in a 5 mile radius around Manchester.

staggering

On average, the dust contained about 1,000ppm of lead which is 20 times greater than the average found rural soil. A few samples contained far larger amounts, up to a staggering 10,000 ppm. The most likely way that lead in dust could be ingested by kids is via sweets eaten while playing outside.

contaminated

Measurements of the quantity of lead transferred in this way, after 30 minutes play in a normal playground, showed that it would be easy for kids to consume 100 ug of lead a day. Badly contaminated areas &/or particularly grubby fingers could result in 1,000 ug of lead being consumed per day.

tolerable

Lead from dirt & dust provides an extra load on top of that which is normally present in ordinary food. Estimates based on the recent national Survey of Lead in Food show that the average intake by children simply from the eating of 'clean' food probably exceeds "tolerable intake" set by a United Nations expert committee. The additional lead from dust & dirt may be putting the levels ingested by kids up to far more than double the "tolerable intake".

limit

In view of the medical evidence which suggests that children may be more sensitive to lead than adults, especially with regard to risks concerning the brain & nervous system, these findings are cause for alarm. Dr.Philip Day & his colleagues point to the existing limits on lead in food & in paint for childrens' toys. They stress that the lack of such a limit for town dust is "an urgent & important problem". 90% of the lead in city dust originates from vehicle exhausts. On health grounds alone, the time has come for this environmental hazard to be curbed.

E.L.S. gives a bigger choice yes?

E.L.S GIVES a bigger choice yes. The choice for the kids at St. Annes R.C Junior School in Ancoats is to put up with their dirty 100 year old school or go without an education. And all because E.L.S refuses to quit the site of its warehouse on Pollard St, where the Council plans to build a new school.

The 240 pupil school was due to be replaced when it was included in a special £29 million building programme. The school is one of the worst in M/C, with crumbling walls, a leaking roof & falling plaster. The lights have to be left on all day because the surrounding factories block out the light. Chairman of the Education committee, Ms Sally Shaw said, "The condition of the school causes grave anxiety & if we cannot get a start soon the whole project will have to be abandonned".

E.L.S have declined to comment. They presumably won't be in the running for the carpet contract for the new school, if it ever gets built.

Refuge for refugees

ABOUT 20 Chilean refugees, forced to flee their homeland by the brutal repression of the junta, are expected in M/C at the end of March. There will be a reception on their arrival & they will attend an intensive English course at the Abram Moss Centre. During this period, they will need accommodation while they are looking for permanent jobs & housing in the area. The Chile solidarity campaign asks anyone who can let a room to a refugee for 10-12 weeks to contact Susan Roberts, 23 Ballbrook Ave, M/C 20. 445 5443.

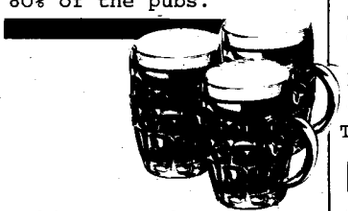
Asbestos protest

PLANS BY the Kirkby firm of Lanofilm to establish an asbestos cutting & storing plant in Elm Grove, Sale are being resisted by local residents. Over 40 children live in the street & their families are worried about possible health risks from asbestos dust. Although the plant would require an extraction/filtering system to be fitted by law, the residents feel that there's always the possibility of a breakdown. There's also conflicting evidence as to what constitutes a 'safe' level for asbestos in the air. In view of this, they argue that the safest course is simply to avoid any possible hazard by siting the plant in a non-residential area. A petition with 100 names protesting about the plans has been sent to Trafford Council.

This is not the first safety problem arising from the Elm Grove Industrial estate which is owned by the giant MEPC property group (1974 profits: £4 mill). A year ago, residents blockaded the road after a child was knocked down by one of the numerous lorries which regularly pass up and down the narrow cul-de-sac. The decision on the asbestos factory plans will be made at Trafford's planning meeting on 6th March

All the beer sold in this establishment has been passed by the management

Stockport is one of those endearing places that has little evidence of Whitbread and Bass Charrington. A rare thing nowadays. Instead, there is a strong & widespread representation of locally brewed ale. Robinsons, Boddingtons and Wilsons are found in 80% of the pubs.



Robinsons, of course, is Stockport's own & only brewery situated in the heart of the town. The beer is excellent and comes in 4 varieties There's mild, best mild and best bitter, all served usually by electric or handpumps. And then there's Old Tom, the winter ale from the barrel on the bar.This beer is so strong that no-one would serve it to us in a pint glass. Shame. Boddingtons also serve a strong ale along with their strong flavoured draught mild & bitter beers.

Other beers include Wilsons (one of the few examples of real ale from Watneys)nearly all handpumped but it didn't seem to us as good as that in M/C (Freep 28). The local beers were not necessarily the cheapest. The George serves Higsons (Liverpool) which was as cheap, if not cheaper, than anything else.

Our list here, once again, is not meant to be exhaustive. But it contains the pubs we preferred out of those we visited. All of them are within 2 minutes walk of Mersey Square or the market.

ROBINSONS

ROCK HOUSE, (Gt Egerton St)
2 rooms with darts (ladies too), pool, bandit & juke box. Handpumps.

THREE TUNS, (Gt Egerton St)
3 rooms, one with pool.Juke box. Handpumps.

TIVIOT, (Tiviot St)
4 open rooms round large bar with footy, darts. Electric.

SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, (Princess St). Men only vault with darts, cards. Juke box & bandit in corridor & smoke room. Cosy. Electric.

ARDEN ARMS, (Millgate)
2 grandfather clocks. Lounge snug thro' bar with glass shutters. Very clean. Handpumps.

BAKERS VAULTS, (Market).
3 rooms round large bar. Entertainment on some nights. Large & open. Electric pumps.

BRIDGE, (King Street)
Vault with darts & cards. TV room (blacked out when we went in). Loung with juke box & bandit. Electric pumps.

PINEAPPLE, (Heaton Lane)
Vault with cards & darts. 2 snugs with juke box. Electric

ROYAL OAK, (High Street).
Darts, TV. Local I.S. meet on Thurs 8pm in snug. Pleasant. Handpumps.

SPREAD EAGLE, (L.Hillgate).
Darts & juke box. Electric.

BODDINGTONS

BUCK & DOG, (Bridge St)
3 large rooms round big bar. Darts, cards & footy. Busy. Handpumps.

KINGS ARMS, (Warren St)
Smallish with 2 rooms on opposite sides of tiny bar. Many 'characters' in pub, one an unusual pianist. Darts etc. Handpumps.

COUNTY, (Millgate)
Vault with darts & cards. Concert room has Minah bird, juke box, radiogram, old weighing machine. Entertaining. Handpumps.

CROWN INN, (Heaton Lane)
Small with matching aspidestra & darts across the table. Very well kept. Handpumps.

WILSONS

BEEHIVE, (Petersgate)
Darts in vault. TV. Best Wilsons. Handpumps.

EGERTON ARMS, (Petersgate)
2 large rooms. Musak & lunch snacks. Popular. Electric pumps.

STATION, (Tiviot St)
3 rooms, games in bar.Juke box. Gloomy. Handpumps.

UNITY, (Wellington Rd)
TV in small bar. Pool,juke box & bandit in back room. Quiet. Handpumps.

UNICORN, (Wellington Rd N.)
Lounge with juke box.Vault with darts, cards & open fire. Handpumps.

OTHERS

GEORGE, (Mersey Sq)
Higsons beer. Huge pub with many rooms in the style of Queen Mary Ship. Draught bass. Handpumps.

GLADSTONE, (Hillgate)
Tetleys beer. TV in vault. Pool in smoke room. Piano & juke box in lounge.Handpumps.

If you want Greenalls try Stockport Arms (Petersgate), for Sam Smiths there's a pub by the market, & John Smiths has the Tom Thumb by the Fire Station on King Street.

BACK TO FRONT

THEY'RE CRAWLING out again. Did you see them in the centre of M/C? Union jacks on spear-topped flagpoles - all the '30s nostalgia! The National Front are on the move again.

Racialist

At their recent annual General Meeting, they voted in favour of purging from their membership all persons of mixed race, non European or coloured origin. Speaking in favour of this move, Bert Wilton of Southwark summed up the position: "We have to be 100% racialist in the National Front. If people who are half or quarter coloured are allowed in it will kill everything." Dr.Goebbels would have been proud of him.

Demo

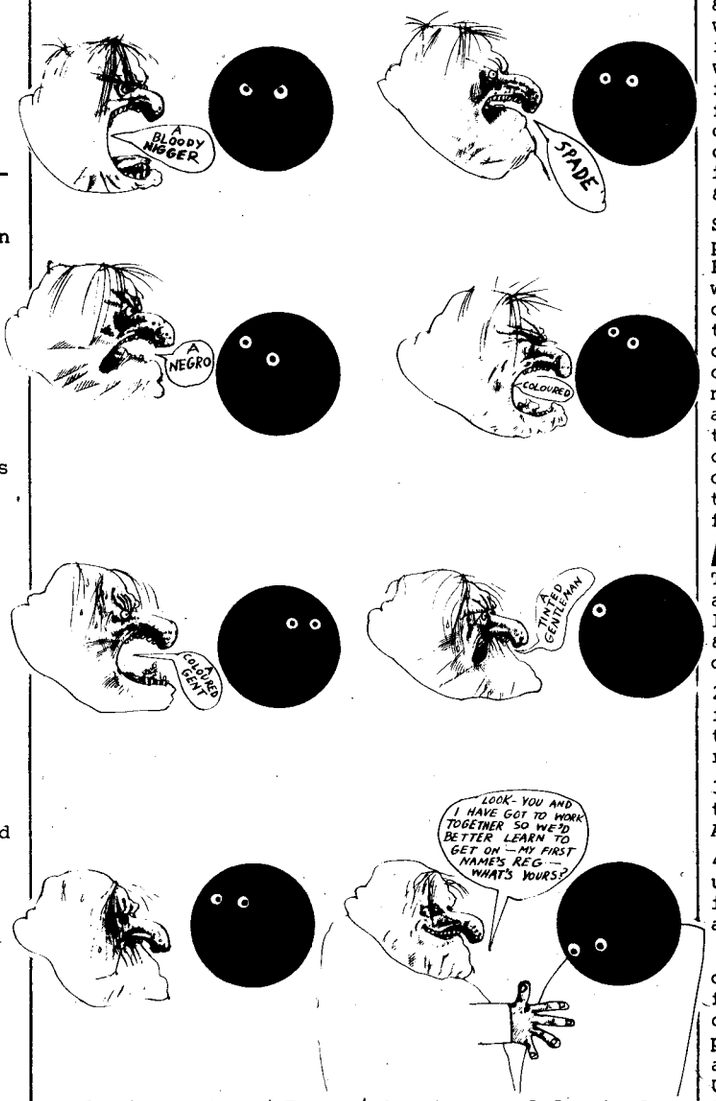
The recent march thro' the streets of M/C was when the Front's chairman, John Kingsley Read appeared before the Race Relations Board because he had sent out a racialist leaflet to people in Blackburn during the last election. The leaflet asked people not to sell their houses to coloured immigrants.

The Board later ruled that Read had broken the Race Relations Act. They have a discretion on the next step to take. They can try more conciliation & hope he promises to be good in future. They can apply to the County Court for an order declaring the leaflet unlawful. If they think there is liklihood of repetition they can ask for an injunction ordering Read not to do it again.

They gave him until 7th February to provide a written assurance that he wouldn't repeat his action. Read refused. He had said earlier that he would rather go to jail. This desire for martydom is likely to be frustrated by the feebleness of the law. After Read refused to recant, the Conciliation Committee passed the case to the Central Board of the Race Relations Board in London.

Discretion

Finally, at their discretion they can let the matter rest & take no further action. To sum up, the law is cumbersome & ineffective.


BLOODY NIGGER
SPADE
A NEGRO
COLOURED
COLOURED GENT
TINTED GENTLEMAN
LOOK- YOU AND I HAVE GOT TO WORK TOGETHER SO WE'D BETTER LEARN TO GET ON — MY FIRST NAME'S REG — WHAT'S YOURS?

Contrast

In contrast, the law was much more effectively represented at the demonstration itself on 24 January. There was an impressive police escort of mounted horsemen plus scores of policemen on foot. Their presence enabled the Front to incite a public meeting to racial hatred thereby publicly giving the "V" sign to the provisions of the Race Relations Act which forbid this. So much for the impartiality of the law.

There was a small ineffective counter demo. Had all Manchester become complacent about the threat of fascism? The answer came on 16th February. A meeting was held at the Lesser Free Trade Hall to coordinate the opposition to the National Front & other ultra right wing groups. The meeting was attended by a wide range of delegates from trade unions, anti-fascist committees, community relations councils, Jewish & Pakistani organisations & the NCCL.

Several Labour MPs were present including Paul Rose (Blackley) who was chairman. He called on all present to work together in the defence of democracy: "We recognise the violent nature of fascism, its attempt to subjugate the trade unions & to concentrate attention on racial issues to take attention away from social evils."

Aims

The conference adopted a statement of aims for:

1. increased publicity & education about fascist organisations.

2. arrangement of activities to counter the threat of fascism and racism.

3. pressure to strengthen the Race Relations Act.

4. opposition to the use of public facilities by fascist organisations.

A body called "Democratic Defence" was founded. Its aim is to co-ordinate all the people involved in the anti-fascist struggle. Unless your '30s nostalgia runs as far as black shirts, that includes you!

Cash coughed up

AT LAST. The govmt has finally agreed to cough up the money needed to finance a law centre in M/C. See Freep 25/26 for details of the long struggle. The money has been promised under the "Urban Aid Scheme". Under this scheme, the govmt provides ¾ of the cash & the local authority provide ¼. So it's conditional on the GMC dipping in.

The centre would be run by a management committee including representatives of the M/C Law Society, Social Services Dept, Citizens Advice Bureau & various community organisations. Advice will be given on housing, landlord and tenant, immigration, industrial tribunals & other welfare matters.

The grant for the centre comes at the same time as a report from one of the London Law centres. The report criticises recent governments for passing laws which people are unable to enforce ie. the law against harassment of tenants. A further problem is that people wishing to fight their case with govmt depts or tribunals, find that they can't get legal aid for this.

SSHAC shocked

AT A RECENT meeting called by Stockport Council between Stockport Shelter Housing Action Group (SSHAC) & representatives from the Housing & Social Services divisions, it became clear that the SSHAC group would have to fight hard to make the council learn the lessons of their emergency housing scheme.

It's just over 3 months since the so-called "legal squatting" agreement was signed & the group now has 27 houses in Compulsory Purchase Order areas which members have done up for use by families who can't yet hope for a council house.

But at the meeting on 19th February, Social Services tried to get the group to rehouse families in Part III (hostel or hotel) accommodation whether they were in the group or not. In other words, the council was trying to use a voluntary group to evade their own responsibilities. This is just what radical critics of the SSHAC agreement had been concerned about. However, the group resisted this pressure, & made it perfectly clear that the SSHAC operation is only a pilot scheme to show the council what can be done. All those involved in SSHAC realise that they must not be thought of as an alternative part of the Housing Dept - or a dumping ground for social services.

It's a pressure group whose main purpose must be broadly political: to force the council to take action in the name of the whole community.

For this reason, the SSHAC committee spelt out a policy to the council which included the following points:

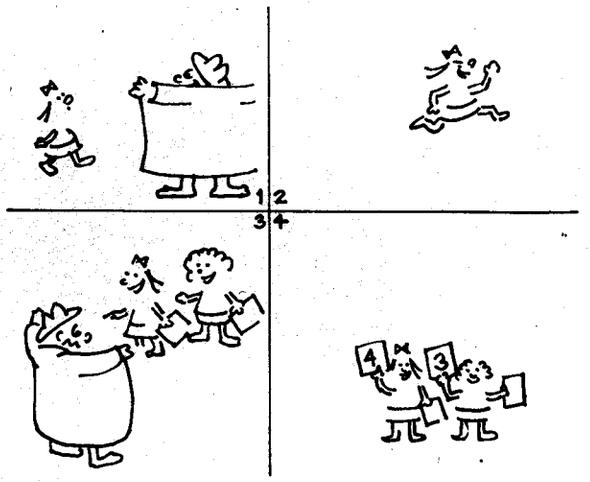
1 The only real answer is to build more council houses. In recent years the Tory council has been unwilling and the Labour council apparently unable to do so.

2 Meanwhile, the council should only clear old houses as & when new houses are built to replace them.

3 The council should set up a Housing Reclamation Unit to bring back into use a large number of the fit but empty houses in Stockport.

4 SSHAC will not continue with the present agreement beyond the end of April unless the council takes effective action.

It remains to be seen whether the council can find the will & the imagination to make real inroads into the scandal of Stockport homelessness - which is the subject of a visit by the Junior Minister for Housing, Gerald Kaufman on 7th March. It's a safe bet that neither the council nor the Stockport housing officers are looking forward to the visit.



Clap hands here comes Charlie

THE IDEA of the CLAP handbook is to bring to people who have money, a list of various projects that are too imaginative or revolutionary to get money from normal sources. None of the projects listed make a profit or pay more than a living wage. Most projects are based in London but in the current issue of the handbook, there is a section on Northern based projects. In future, 13,000 copies of Northern CLAP will be printed separately.

Projects applying for inclusion in the handbook should:
a) help to change or revolutionise British society in some way.
b) help people expand their consciousness.
c) help people communicate with one another.
d) help people improve their environment.
e) help build up alternative structures in Britain.

For more information applicants should write to CLAP, c/o BIT, 146, Great Western Rd, London W11.

Tightness blight

WE UNDERSTAND that the hacks on the Manchester Evening News are so tight fisted that they won't even buy their own Freeps. The poor things have to club together to purchase a magnificent one & only copy & then photostat it so that everyone can read it.
We would like to extend our condolences to those hard pressed journalists with regards to their recent labour dispute with the M/C Evening Advertiser. We sincerely hope that this had nothing to do with our revelations about how proud the News is of its increased advertising revenue & profit.

Poco carries on

photo by John

the landslip. The residents have grouped together to take legal action against Poco,but fear that such proceedings will take so long that further serious damage will occur. The main fear is that further landslips will undermine the foundations of some of the houses & finally cause their collapse. Paul Rose has told Poco that "immediate action is needed". Poco has not responded.

Lets hope the families enjoyed the early spring flowers: by summer their gardens (to say nothing of their homes) could be at the bottom of the brook.

PS. If you hear nothing more on this story from Piccadilly Radio or from the Evening News- don't be surprised. Poco has spent a lot of money advertising both in the News & on Radio Picc.

GENUINE WHATSNEW

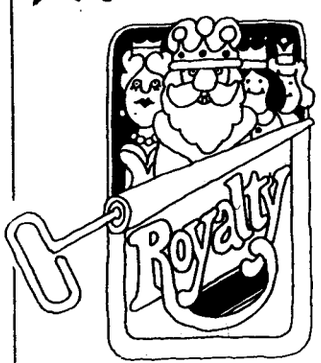
No Trotsky tit bits

MY LIFE by Leon Trotsky. Pelican £1.25.

At bit pricey at £1.25, but a marvellous book nevertheless. Given the sub-title "An Attempt At an Autobiography", this must be one of the most tantalising & in one way unsatisfying life history ever produced - but for the saddest reason. It was written just after his expulsion from the Party & the USSR , & is largely a justification of his political life in face of the slanders & persecution of Stalin. For this reason (& because he doesn't believe an individual's personal life is all that significant) we get an account of his participation in the revolutionary process in Russia but never those anecdotal tit-bits or revelations which would offer an insight into his psychological life. All the same, his erudition, culture, intellectual power, & powerfully developed sense of history are expressed in what must be the livliest prose style of any 20th century Marxist.

ROY JOHNSON

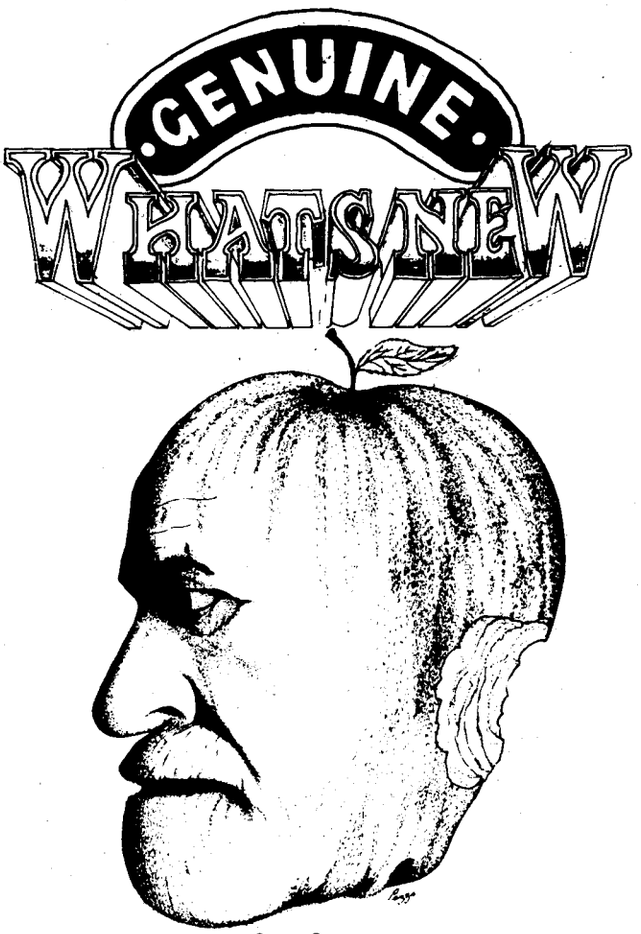
Hocus pocus



HOKE'S JOKES, CARTOONS & FUNNY THINGS. Carousel 20p.

If you or your child like bad jokes, then this selection is definately for you. How about this for starters: Waitress "Are you very Hungary?". Traveller: "Yes, Siam". Waitress:"Well we'll be glad to Fiji. What can I Serbia?" Traveller: "I'll have some Chile & Aix & coffee. And be sure to Sweden the coffee with a Cuba sugar".
You might find life a bit hard to put up with for a while with this painful selection.

SUSAN KIRSCH



Tongue tripping twister

THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE by Sigmund Freud. Pelican 90p.

Another welcome addition to the rapidly expanding Pelican Freud library. This is one of the master's most readable, amusing & convincing works. It deals with those incidents of forgetting words, slips of the tongue, bungled actions, misquotations, & revealing errors which are now eponymously known as'Freudian Slips'. What Freud is concerned to demonstrate, in his characteristically modest way, is the manner in which these trivial mistakes illustrate the psychological mechanisms relating the conscious & the subconscious parts of the mind. Given the vast ignorance of psycho-analytic theory in Britain where, as in the case of political theory complacent dismissal serves as a substitute for critical inspection, the availability in paperback of such an important 20th century document should serve as a welcome stimulus to the circulation of epoch making ideas.

ROY JOHNSON

Early came too late

MARX - EARLY WRITINGS. Penguin £1.00.

Contains most of the work Marx produced during the 7 years 1843-4, when he was 25 years old. Some, like "The Jewish Question" & "Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right" were published in his own lifetime, but the majority, including the very important "Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts" didn't surface until the 1930's & even then were not made widely available. It's for this reason that much discussion over the 'Early' versus the 'Late' Marx has sprung up: but anybody who takes the trouble to read his work in chronological order will find that like any healthy intellectual development his thought grows, expands, & in doing so transcends itself. A useful introduction by Lucio Colletti relates these early essays to Marx's later works/ & explains some of the difficulties created by the passage of time.

ROY JOHNSON

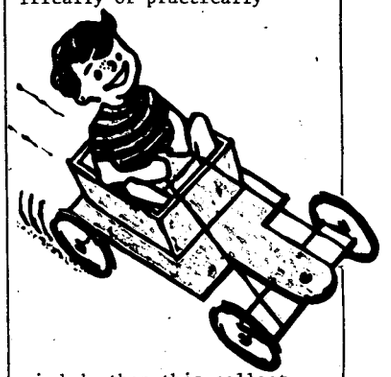
Begin the begin

A COW CALLED BOY by C. Everard Palmer. Carousel 25p.

This is an enjoyable tale of a boy, his pet calf & the problems which they encounter. Set in the West Indies, this story is full of amusing incidents and well worth a read.

31 MODELS FROM ODDS & ENDS by Frank Baker. Carousel 30p

If your child is scientifically or practically



minded, then this collection of models offers some exciting suggestions.They range from kaleidoscopes to steam jet turbines, scales to scarf looms.

HOW YOU BEGAN by Annabel Williams-Ellis.Carousel 30p.

A good, interesting,simple explanation of the origins of a child. "When you began you were only as big as one of the full stops on this page...When you had been growing for about a fortnight, you were as big as this capital O or a grain of rice". And it also tells you how other animals began.

PINOCCHIO by Carlo Collodi. Carousel 35p.

A new translation of the old favourite, this edition is peppered with photos from the film.

SUSAN KIRSCH

Vinegary memoirs

HOPE AGAINST HOPE by Nadezhda Mandelstam. Penguin 90p.

In the early 1930's Osip Mandelstam, one of Russia's greatest poets, dared to criticise Stalin. By 1938, after persecution, imprisonment & axile he was dead. This first part of his widow's memoirs is an attempt to say what it was like to live through the 1920's & 1930's in the Soviet Union. At the same time it tries to recapture the life of a major poet & his connexions with the world & to put on record the heroic struggle of many of his contemporaries against the nightmare of Stalin's totalitarianism. There is a great deal about the literary world of Moscow, & many reputations come in for severe treatment - but what emerges above all is the titanic struggle of this tough, vinegary woman to make sure, through her literary record, that Justice is finally done.

Peculiar primitives

THE IRON HEEL by J.London Journeyman Press, 75p.

Long out of print, Jack London's 1907 novel is a stark portrayal of revolutionary struggle against a brutally repressive capitalist system. The scenario he depicts is one where naked power & class struggle express themselves with extreme violence. The iron heel of the capitalist oligarchy rules victorious for centuries despite periodic upsurges of discontent. The novel is written in the form of a manuscript by the wife of a revolutionary martyr, which is discovered centuries after the establishment of a socialist society. It's studded with scholarly dead pan foot notes commenting on some of the primitive peculiarities of the defunct capitalist order.

Mind the baby

A HALF term play school has now been opened by the students of Stockport College of Technology for the children of mature students. It catered for 60 children & was hailed as a great success, especially by the parents who'd previously had no alternative but to skip their lectures when school half terms cropped up. Now that the half term play scheme has been firmly established in the college, a nursery committee is trying to organise a full time day nursery for kids under 5. A very welcome development all round.

FREEPOEM

Thatcher! Thatcher! burning blue,
Of the very deepest hue,
What dread wizard hard and warty
Made you leader of your party?
At what great girls grammar school
Did you divine the right to rule?
Which University of the two
Kept the fierce ambition true?
And what enthusiastic bent
Brought you into Parliament?
How about it did you go
To get your first portfolio?
When education was your care
Thatchercat, what did you there?
What iron claw concealed in silk
Deprived school children of their milk?
And now those dogged feline feet
Directed are to Downing Street:
Can any man believe it true?
Did he who made Ted Heath make you?

bored?

Come and see northern dance theatre at the Opera Theatre of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester between 18 and 27 March at 7.30pm.

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ADS AND INFO

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SOLIDARITY

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"Crime and Punishment" with Ted Ward, North London PROP.

Saturday 1st March at Moss Side Peoples Centre. Starts at 2pm.

HOMELESS

NIGHT SHELTER in Manchester needs more full time workers. Further details from M/C Night Shelter, Harkness St Ardwick, M/C. Tel 061 273 5828.

PUBLICATIONS

FIRST ISSUE of new quarterly magazine of socialist writings "Fireweed" is due out March '75. Contributions to 107 Bowerham Rd,Lancaster. Sub. £2.50 a yr. The first 1,200 subscribers will get a FREE pre-production edition of Arnold Wesker's controversial new play "The Journalists".

A NEW COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER called North Manchester Eye has just arrived on the scene. It hopes to cover North M/C news & come out 6 times a year. If you're interested in helping, go to the public meetings every first Monday of every month at the Abraham Moss Centre at 8pm. Or phone 795 7800, 795 7105 or 795 0281. Send letters to 16, Catherine Rd, M/C 8. Next issue due out 1st April '75.

PEOPLE'S NEWS SERVICE is a non sectarian political news agency for people's struggles. They produce a fortnightly bulletin of news & information. Subscriptions run at £1.50 for 10 issues to individuals & left groups. Commercial rates on application. For a sample copy, write to Pat Campbell, Freepost, 199 Railton Rd, London SE24.

CARNIVAL

CARNIVAL from 8-15 March. Organised by M/C University students, there will be something for everyone, "from concerts to candy floss", ending with a street party on 15th March for everyone in the Rusholme St community . Details 273 5111.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE FOR PEOPLE GROUP Anyone interested should contact Brendan Gillespie, 86A Parsonage Rd, Heaton Moor. Tel 442 6827.

MEETING

GET BRITAIN OUT of the Common Market campaign.Meeting at Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter St on 2nd March at 2.30pm.

MEN AGAINST SEXISM National Conference 22-23 March 1975. Falmer House, Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton. An opportunity for people from Mens' groups to get together & discuss such things as "The Family","Mens Sexuality", "Mens relationships to men", "What to do about Sexist Men", contact Norman Rofer, 151 Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton, Sussex.

DRUGS

ADVICE ON DRUG USE at the Lifeline Trust Day Centre, 81 Mosley St, M/C 2. Open Mon-Fri, 11am to 6pm. Tel. 228 2460.

CHILE

CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN National Demonstration against any extension by G.B. & the Club of Paris of the Chilean debt, will be held in Liverpool on 15th March. Assemble Islington Square at 12.30pm. Coaches leave M/C from St Peters Sq at 10.30am. Tickets 60p from Brian Anglo 881 1290 or Gerry Leversha 445 3432. Speakers for Trade unions & other groups available.

WOMENS DEMO

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Demonstration will assemble in Albert Sq at 2.30pm on 8th March & will march thro' M/C to an open air meeting on Quay St Recreation ground.

ONE PARENT

OLDHAM ONE PARENT FAMILIES ASSOC. For info contact Brenda Bennett, 37 Thackerey Rd, Derker, Oldham or Joyce Wild 633 1178.

GINGERBREAD meets on 1st Mon & 3rd Tues each month, 8pm at M/C Univ.Student Union

MENTAL PATIENTS

MANCHESTER MENTAL PATIENTS' Union now meets regularly at 178 Oxford Road, M/C 2. Every Saturday at 3pm.

Further info from M/C MPU c/o Estelle Beninson, 2 York Place
York Avenue, Prestwich.

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TRANSPORT

GMTAG (Greater M/C Transport Action Group) is holding an open meeting on the 3rd March 1975 at 7.30pm in the School of Planning, M/C University. Topic is "The Financing of Greater M/C Transport Policies & Programme" & the meeting will be addressed by Mr J.Nichols, the assistant County Treasurer of the GMC.

LEGAL

RUSHOLME Legal Advice Centre St James Parish Hall, Danes Road, Rusholme. Tuesdays 6.30-9.30pm.

UNIVERSITY Legal Advice Centre 178 Waterloo Place (Oxford Road) Manchester 13. Tel. 273 4575. Mon-Fri 1-3pm. Tues & Thurs 5.30-7.30pm.

NELLO JAMES CENTRE, 136 Withington Road, Manchester 16. Tel 226 4164. Evening legal advice.

WOMEN

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION will be held on 5-6 April at the Abram Moss Centre. Men required to run the creche. Tel 273 2287 for info.

WOMEN'S ABORTION & CONTRACEPTION CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE will be held at Nottingham University on 22-23 March. Tel 273 2287 for more info.

SOCIALIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE in London on 22-23 March. Tel 273 2287 for more info.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S AID CONFERENCE will be held at M/C University Students Union, Oxford Rd on 1 March. Tel 881 4106 for further info.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION CENTRE 218 Upper Brook St, M/C 13. Tel 273 2287. Same address for Women's Rights Group & Women's Aid Group. Also: Information Service Mon to Thurs 7.30-9pm.

CONTACTS

WOMEN'S GROUP CONTACTS: Central M/C, L.Condor 248 7688: South M/C,M.Baguley, 962 5642: North M/C, Pat or Lesley, 792 1070: Chorlton, M.Duncan, 881 4660: Didsbury 1, L.Barber, 445 8709: Didsbury 2, A.Percival, 445 0924: Stockport 1, R.Hetherington 442 9679: Stockport 2, T. Grant, 432 3752: Moss Side, B.Leadbeater, 224 8292:Longsight, Mary, 881 0477.

MARXISM

MANCHESTER CENTRE FOR MARXIST EDUCATION is running the following courses from Jan '75, all fortnightly unless otherwise stated: "Basic Marxism"(weekly); "Intermediate Marxism";Marxist Economics"; "History of the British Labour Movement". Contact G.Hodgson, 12 Kenilworth Ave, W.Didsbury, M/C.

NCCL

PAMPHLET PRODUCED by the NCCL M/C Group on "The Law, the State & Ireland" is now available from Rhys Vaughan at 44 Demesne Rd, M/C 16. It's a comprehensive guide to the Emergency Provisions Act & other legislation relevant to the Irish question.

MANCHESTER NCCL has just started publishing a bulletin which will come out on a regular basis & report NCCL activities in the area. If you want to help, send your bits & pieces to 16, Russell Ave, M/C 16 in the first few days of each month.

NEXT MEETING of M/C NCCL will be held on 6th March in M/C University Students Union, Oxford Rd, 7.30pm.

CHE

CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) have a number of groups in the Manchester area. Altrincham, 10 Springfield Rd, 928 8756: Manchester,24 Lapwing Lane, Didsbury, 445 2889: Oldham, Owen 665 1625:Wigan, Bernard 625209: CHE Youth Group, Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, Longsight,Terry 225 9779; CHE Gay Womens Group, Sue or Liz 881 3683.

For further info contact Bob Crossman 928 8756 or write CHE,28 Kennedy St,M/C.

LESBIANS

THE LESBIAN COLLECTIVE meets at 8pm every Tuesday at the Women's Liberation Centre, 218 Upper Brook St,M/C 13. Phone Glossop 4142 for more information

FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH now has offices at 61 Bloom St, M/C. Tel. 236 0779. They would like to know about any other groups which are recycling stuff together with details of the schemes.

ADVICE

BRADFORD: Rylance St.Area Action Group (especially clearance advice):223 0181.

CHEETHAM HILL: Haliwell Lane Advice Centre, 100 Haliwell Lane: Mon & Thurs. 5.30-7.30pm:Tues,Wed,Fri. 2.30-4.30pm. Advice on welfare Rights, housing law & redevlopment in the area.

MOSS SIDE: Housing advice. Moss Side Pastoral Centre, Great Western Street. Mon & Wed. 5.30-7pm. 226 3886.

COLLYHURST/HARPURHEY:Neighbourhood Info Centre,Community Services Centre, Paget St. (off Rochdale Rd) Manchester 10. Tel 205 6292.

STOCKPORT: Advice Centre, of sorts. The Tusky Dog,25 Stockport Road, Gorsey Bank, Stockport. 477 2301. Essentially a shop selling cheap, useful stuff like clothes 5-10p.Also runs cheap transport & furniture service.

SALFORD: Rights stall in market: Sat. Also Community House run by Docks Action Group. Contact Billy Gill, 8 Broadway, Salford 5.

Also: Underdog, 83 Camp St, Salford 7. Tues,Thurs,Fri. 12-4pm. Gives advice on SS benefits, supplementary etc.

PARTINGTON: People's Rights Office. Daily. 775 6130.

OLDHAM: Welfare Rights Working Party. 1 Firth St,Oldham. Welfare rights stalls, Training course for DHSS advocates etc. Meetings monthly approx. Tel. 652 8096.
Also Citizens Advice Bureau at 1 Firth St. Tel 624 4870.

CHADDERTON: Citizens Advice Centre. Tel 633 4291.

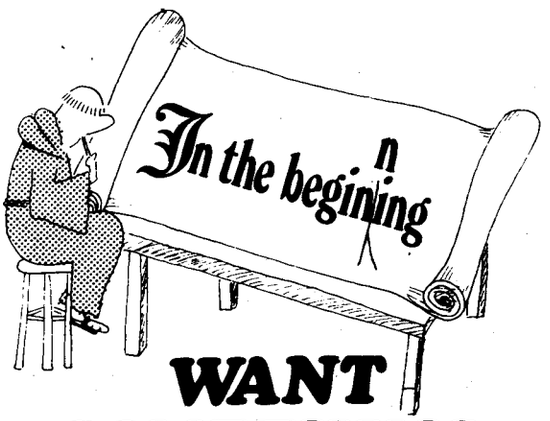
FAILSWORTH: Advice Bureau. Tel. 681 7555.

SADDLEWORTH: Citizens Advice Bureau. Tel. Sadd 6410.

ABBEYHILLS: Neighbourhood Advice Centre for advice on Welfare benefits, Social Security, Housing problems, Legal Aid, Hire Purchase etc. 27 Sixteenth Ave, Abbeyhills, Oldham. Tel 665 1201.

FOLK CLUB

SONG CARRIERS FOLK CLUB is held every Friday in the Millstone, Hilton St, M/C. Whether old or new, the music is based firmly in the folk tradition. For further info phone 061-737 8628 or write to: 17 Hillside Drive, Pendlebury, M/C.



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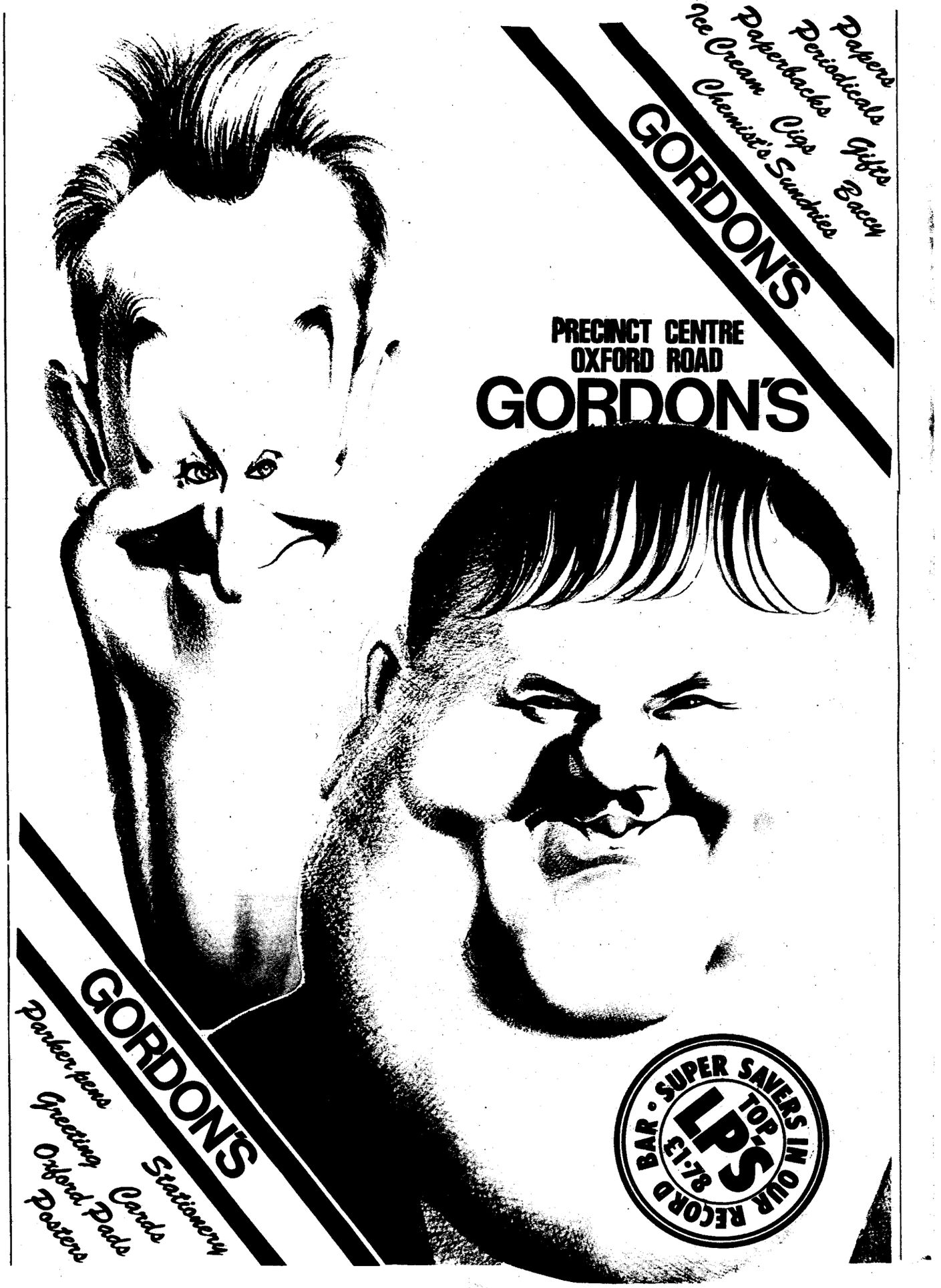
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